

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, UR

SUBJ: HOST COUNTRY INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOVIET SCST

REF: A. STATE 16203

B. BONN 1788

1. KEEN COMMERCIAL RIVALRY FOR SOVIET INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SUGGESTS THAT BONN'S SUGGESTION REF B, THAT INFORMATION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATE COMMITTEE AND US FIRMS BE PROVIDED TO FRG, BE EVALUATED WITH SPECIAL REGARD FOR COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES.

2. US COMPANIES HAVE BEEN GENERALLY RELUCTANT PASS DATA CONCERNING S&T AGREEMENTS WITH SCST TO EMBOFFS. DURING JOINT US-USSR COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEETING MOSCOW LATE 1973 US DELEGATION CONSULTANT GLENNAN GAVE SOME INFORMATION TO EMBASSY WITH UNDERSTANDING IT BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. GLENNAN CITED STRONG CONCERN BY COMPANIES THAT NATURE AND CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS WOULD LEAK THROUGH AND OUTSIDE USG. FURTHER, PRINCIPAL COMPETITION FOR US FIRMS IN SOVIET MARKET COMES FROM FRG. RIVALRY ESPECIALLY INTENSE IN TECHNOLOGY FIELD BECAUSE S&T ACCORDS CONTAIN IMPORTANT CLUES ABOUT USSR PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. SOVIET CUSTOM OF KEEPING SUCH INFORMATION FROM OTHER PARTIES THAN SELECTED PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS LENDS ITS ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL VALUE.

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3. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES LEAD EMBASSY TO VIEW THAT INFORMATION INCLUDED IN ANY S&T AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US COMPANIES AND STATE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE TREATED AS PRIVILEGED AND SHOULD NOT BE DIVULGED TO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS BY USG REPRESENTATIVES. WE ASSUME OF COURSE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO MENTIONING THOSE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY BY COMPANIES THEMSELVES.
DUBS

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